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SOCIALIST WORKER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SOCIALIST UNION

OCTOBER '72

CAN THE PEOPLE WIN IN NOVEMBER ?

The presidential race is leaving behind it a trail of lessons in capitalist "democracy". Once again the "democratic process" has been exposed as a process of conspiracy and government pay-offs. Electoral politics continues to be a cover-up for class rule. Even the promises sound more hollow than ever before. Basic problems have never been seriously dealt with by capitalism's elected officials. Inflation, unemployment, racism, and U.S. business' attempts at world domination have only increased after two centuries of elections. In 1972, the people aren't offered a choice, but only certainty of more of the same.

The candidates are about what they are working for. Nixon still thinks he can secure a military victory for big business in Vietnam. He wants wage freezes for those who work, and continued unemployment for those who can't find jobs. He is a national symbol of racism. Mc-Govern, on the other hand. says he's for "reform". His aim is to buy off the rising anger against capitalist rule with token concessions and promises. While recognizing the people's demands for peace in Indochina, he supports im-

perialist ventures in other parts of the world. While making empty jabs at big business, he has consistently opposed labor legislation. McGovern and Nixon only represent the two sides of the trick capitalist coin. Both sides bear the heads of capitalism's agents. The owners of the coin - the capitalist class - are bound to win the toss in November.

Hidden behind Nixon is the power of Standard Oil and the Rockefellers. McGovern is propped up by General Motors

and Xerox. These strings are just part of the whole election game. Elections will always serve the corporate rulers in a capitalist society because they hold the power to make puppets of even the most honest politicians. And they will manipulate the entire political process to keep their ruling position.

Capitalist elections can only decide which sector of the ruling class gets the main control of the government. The government and other powers of the state - the army, police, courts, etc. - are the main tools of capitalist rule. The police and army are used to break strikes and to put down the people's rebellions. The government and courts put the stamp of legality on these actions against the people. state power remains in the hands of the capitalist class, the real interests of the American people can never be served.

The paid politicians can't be relied on to hand over the resources

controlled by the ruling class. The capitalists will not be voted out of their power. That power will ultimately have to be taken from them. And they will not hesitate to hurl the entire might of the state against workers' attempts to fight back. The only force capable of leading a victorious struggle against these powers is the full strength of the working class. United among itself and with its allies, the working class cannot be defeated.

The struggle against the capitalist class will not be won or lost in this or any other election. This struggle does not come every four years or every two years. It is waged every single day in a thousand different forms. Every wage increase ripped from the capitalists, every slum landlord driven out of the ghetto, is a victory for working people. Each blow struck against capitalism builds the unity and strength of the workers and sets the stage for the final defeat of the ruling class.

All power to the working class!

All victory to the people!

CAUTION: WORK AT YOUR OWN RISK

Every day, hundreds of workers all over the country are injured on the job. A private research firm working for the Labor Department estimates that no fewer than 25 million workers are injured every year. An additional 500,000 more are disabled by occupational diseases such as brown-lung (textile-mill workers, tobacco workers), black-lung (coal miners), chemical poisoning (chemical plant workers and migrant farm laborers), aspestosis (insulation trade workers), silicosis, lung cancer (uranium miners), various skin diseases, sunstroke and heat exhaustion (construction workers). Many workers' hearing is permanently injured by working in factories and plants with too high noise levels. Nobody really knows for sure how many workers have been struck down by these killers - chemicals, poisonous fumes, dust and generally unhealthy, unsafe working conditions.

It is a general rule in industry that safety takes a second place to the speed of production. Some companies go to extreme lengths to hide bad safety records. A large chemical producer once warned the company doctor that he would be fired if he published a report on chemical poisoning among employees of the plant.

Many employers continue to use worn-out and unsafe machinery, endangering workers' lives, to keep expenses down and profits up. The various states have too few safety inspectors for the large number of industries to be inspected. As of two years ago, four states had no safety inspectors at all! The total number of safety inspectors in 1970 was only one third the number of fish and game wardens in the U.S.

In many industries, workers are "on production." Production rates are set for each type job, and all workers are expected to "make production" to hold their jobs. Workers are supposed to get paid extra for any work over the production rates, but in some plants this is not done. The result of having production rates is that workers must always do their jobs at high speed. At such high speeds, accidents happen. Workers get careless and even ignore safety rules in order to make production. The only one to blame for these accidents is the company which sets the production rates. The capitalists, who own the companies, want to get as much out of the workers in the shortest amount of time. While they're counting up the profits, men and women are losing fin-

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gers, hands, arms and even lives.

Coal mining has been the most dangerous occupation in the U.S. for years. In fact, 80,000 miners have died in the mines since 1910. Most of these deaths would not have happened if the mine owners followed the safety regulations concerning electrical wiring, machines, ventilation, emergency exits and regular safety checks of the mines for weak

areas and gas leaks. Miners leave their families each day not sure whether they'll return home again. Disaster can strike at any time when the owners, in the interest of profits, refuse to take a few minutes from production time to check the shafts or spend money for necessary repairs.

Besides accidents, the development of more than 100,000 cases of



coal miners' black - lung disease, which comes from breathing in coal dust, could have been prevented. Miners in West Virginia couldn't get any workmen's compensation for their black-lung disease until late in 1969. In the insulating trade, 8% of all workers will die from asbestosis, a lung disease caused by inhaling asbestos fibers. Uranium miners have a high rate of lung cancer among them. More than 100,000

of the country's textile-mill workers has brown-lung disease from breathing in cotton dust. Many companies give workers a regular breathing test to see how their lungs are doing, but the companies know this won't stop the disease. Only when the dust is gone will the workers be healthy and safe. Unfortunately, the capitalists don't want to spend money protecting the workers' lives, even though the workers

made all that money for the owners

with their labor.

In California, the number one cause of illness among the migrant farm workers is the careless use of agricultural chemicals and pesticides by the growers (owners). The field conditions for these workers. many of them Mexican-Americans. are so bad that they endanger the workers' good health. These workers. under the leadership of Ceasar Chavez, have been waging a struggle for years against the growers to have a union. the Farmworkers Union. They have been successful. with the aid of a nationwide grape boycott. in forcing grape-growers to accept the union. Now they are asking all Americans to boycott iceburg lettuce in an attempt to unionize another area of their work. Once the union is in. the farmworkers are able to demand better, safer working conditions in the fields. They realize that it is only through their united strength that growers will be forced

to safeguard the workers' lives.

Most of these occupational diseases and industrial accidents are completely preventable. It is a crime for them to continue. guilt for these accidents and diseases must rest squarely on the shoulders of the capitalists. In their greedy desire for higher profits and business expansion. they have sacrificed countless workers lives. It becomes clearer every day that this small class of people, who own and control all the wealth created by the working class. will not voluntarily protect workers' lives and health. The only protection workers have is their united class strength. They must unite and demand safe working conditions in the factories, in the mills, in the mines, on the construction sites and on the farms. This is the only way the working class of this country will win important victories in the crucial battle for control of their own lives.

What's It Got To Do With The Price Of Bread?

Once again the government has shown that it is nothing but a book-keeper and errand boy for the capitalist bosses. With tax money pulled out of the paychecks of millions of working people, the U.S. government is helping six big grain exporting companies gouge small wheat farmers in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. While the grain speculators were busy buying wheat at rock-bottom prices and driving many small farmers into debt,

their buddies in the Department of Agriculture were making sure that no one found out that the Russian government was about to buy one-quarter of the entire U.S. wheat crop - with a 500 million dollar loan from the U.S. government!! That's right. The money from our paychecks went to the U.S. government, then to the Russian government, then to the big grain wheeler-dealers, then to the farmers. But what really happened after every body got their hands out of the pig-

1) The U.S. government got millions of dollars interest on the loan, which goes to fat salaries.

2) Nixon got over \$40,000 in campaign contributions from the grain

swindlers.

3) The Russian government which betrayed its working people by wrecking the socialist revolution they fought for in 1917 and setting up capitalism again, got its wheat cheap.

4) The six big grain companies, Carnac, Continental, Bunge, Cook, Dreyfus and Cargill, raked in over 100 million dollars in profit. And now they're going to get a subsidy

from the government?!

5) By the time that tax money got back to working people (the farmers who actually grew the wheat), there wasn't much left. Even in good years, the farmers are so exploited by the big companies that the government has had to give them a subsidy to keep them from going broke.

6) Already there is talk that with wheat prices shooting up because of speculation, the price of bread may go up. It's the same story most every place: the working class always pays, not once but many times for the capitalists' profits and pleasures.

When it comes to helping the rich get richer, and keeping the working class fighting among itself, those politicians who sit in Wash-6

ington and talk about "the good of the country", do a real good job. After all, that is their job! They try to make us believe that business and government are really two different things. They're lying because they know there's very little difference.

1) Clarence Palmby who was Assistant Secretary of Agriculture is now Vice President of Continental Grain Company.

2) J. Brunthauer who worked for Cook Industries now has Palmby's old job (Assis. Sec. of Agriculture).

3) Clifford Pulvermacher used to be manager of the Department of Agriculture export Marketing Service. Now he is the Washington representative for the Bunge Company.

4) George Shenkin who used to work for Bunge Company was then Pulvermacher's assistant at the Depart-

ment of Agriculture.

5) William Pearce, the old Vice President of Cargill, became the White House special representative for trade negotiations.

These are men you never hear about; no one ever elects them. It wouldn't matter who we elected for President or to Congress - these types of men would still be there; this type of capitalist system would still work the same way. Out in the open, or behind the scenes, the capitalists will continue their rule until the working class kicks them out and sets up its own rule.

COMMUNIST MOVEMENT ADVANCES

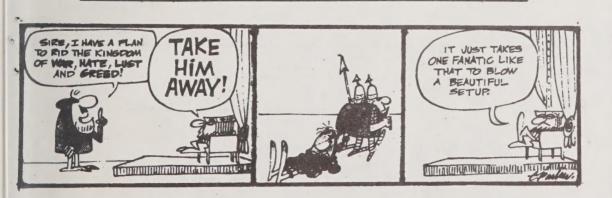
The recent conference of Southern communists gave convincing evidence of the vigor of the emerging communist movement in the U.S. The meeting in September called together forces from the South. Organizations and individuals from Atlanta, Birmingham, Louisville, Charlotte, Nashville, Tampa, Jacksonville, Laurel, Mississippi, and New Orleans participated in the conference. Durham was represented by the North Carolina Socialist Union.

The new communist forces are rising out of the people's increasing resistance to the rule of the capitalist class. Where there is oppression, there has always been resistance. The strength of this movement is directly related to the recognition of working class leadership in the struggle for socialism.

There was unanimous agreement among conference participants that success in this struggle demands total reliance on working people and their allies.

The conference also represented a first step toward consolidating communist forces throughout the U.S. The rapid growth of these forces has shown the necessity for organization and leadership of the revolutionary struggle. Most of the conference's work was directed toward building a nation-wide communist party with a firm base in the working class.

The Atlanta conference is another victory for the people. Let the ruling class take note that working people and their allies are uniting for the defeat of capitalism!



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The interests of the working class are absolutely opposed to those of the capitalist ruling class. In the long run, the struggle between the two classes can only be resolved in favor of the masses of working people. A united working class can lead the struggle for the overthrow of the handful of exploiters and rulers.

History has shown us that no ruling class ever hands over its power peacefully. The capitalists have maimed and killed workers in this country and around the world to keep their power over workers. The power they wield can only be seized and returned to the people by the revolutionary force of the armed working class.

The North Carolina Socialist Union is working to build such an organization. We want to share our ideas with other workers. We need your ideas and knowledge. If you are interested, please write us a letter or send us the form below and we will get in touch with you.

Name				
Address				
Phone	-			

SEND TO: N.C.S.U.

Box 2233

Durham, N.C. 27702

SOCIALIST WORKER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SOCIALIST UNION

September '72

BURLINGTON SPOOLERS CAUGHT IN COMPANY-UNION TRAP

The spoolers in Durham's Burlington Domestics plant have been "stretched-out" by 25%! That is, where there were 8 spoolers before, now there are only 6 on each shift. The company blames this on the union contract which calls for a higher rate of production than was being met. But whatever the reasons, the result is the same: the company makes a higher profit off the backs of the workers and the union goes along with it.

In a capitalist system, profits are always more important to the companies than people. This fact is shown by Burlington's recent move. Most of the speciers are older women who have been loyal to the company for a long time. What have they gotten for their labor? A harder workday.

What can we do about this situation? In the long run, only under socialism, where workers control the government and run the factories, will bad working conditions and low wages be eliminated. But in the meantime there is something that can be done.

There is a union at the

Burlington plant; and a union can fight for workers. But in the past the workers haven't really cared about the union. Now workers are talking about getting into, or for some, getting back into, the union and fighting for a new contract that will give them better wages and better working conditions.

But a new contract and new union leaders are not enough. If the union, or any organization of workers is to stay in touch with the needs of its members, then those members have to stay on their guard, be militant, and constantly struggle to push the union forward to greater victories.

NORTHGATE BOYCOTT

We support the boycott of Northgate Shopping Center called by Durham construction workers. We urge all workers to support it also by not shopping at Northgate.

Non-union labor

The reason for the boycott is that all but one of the 40 new stores going up at Northgate are being built by non-union contractors. This means that the construction workers at Northgate are getting 30 to 50 percent lower wages than unionized construction in North Carolina.

Construction workers are waging a pitched battle against the construction bosses organization (Associated General Contractors Association of North Carolina.) The bosses are engaged in a campaign to wipe out construction unions in the state. They succeeded in convincing the owners of Northgate to hire construction companies which refuse to meet union demands. The unionized construction workers decided to strike back with the boycott.

Workers must fight

Construction workers have realized in recent years that if they are going to have a decent life are going to have to fight for The Northgate boycott is only it. of an increasing number of actions aimed at forcing the bosses The history to meet union demands. of labor struggles shows that bosses are out for all they can get out of workers-that despite the slick talk and smiling faces, they don't give up anything unless workers force them to.

Worker solidarity

The situation is the same for all workers. The capitalists, who own the means of production (the raw materials, machines, and tools which are needed to make the goods we use) exploit workers in order to make vast profits. Exploitation means that the capitalists greedily use to their own advantage the labor power (ability to work for a wage) of workers by paying workers much less

than their labor is worth. All workers get is a wage which barely prevides enough food and clothes for their families, if that. The bosses on the other hand, get rich. The only way workers can get what they deserve is to join together to resist exploitation by the capitalist owners.

All workers must join the struggle if we are going to win. Every
struggle by a particular group of
workers is part of the overall battle of all workers. If the Durham
sonstruction workers can really harm
the profit-making of the Northgate
owners, they have moved one step
closer to forcing the bosses to meet
their demands. Let us all stand together in support of our fellow workers in the construction trades.

Beyond bread and butter,

Let us also keep in mind that a boycott like the one at Northgate is only a beginning. The final goal of working people is not only to get higher wages but also to take control of the means of production away from the bosses that own them now. This means that the long range fight is for socialism. Under socialism there is no ownership by the very few at the expense of the many. Workers manage their own factories and distribute the profits for the best interest of all workers. Only the super-rich capitalists will lose out when socialism comes.

So the capitalists will not give up easy. We must struggle against them on all fronts. The Northgate boycott is one of those fronts. To get higher wages is a positive step. It improves our lives now and shows that battles can be won against the capitalists. But we must always keep in mind that the fight does not end with unionization and higher wages. We must struggle on until workers seize control from the capitalists.

We must fight for socialism.

Workers Must Unite. SUPPORT ALL WORKERS' STRUGGLES.

Reforms Won't Defeat

It is very obvious that this society is in need of lots of change—and we all have to work together to make sure that change is for better, not for worse. By "better" we have specific ideas in mind: the working class people must control their government, their jobs and every part of their lives.

One way to change society is by reforms, that is, each time you find something wrong in society, you try to make it right. This approach of improving society by reforms has some value to it. Reforms can make life a little easier, they can raise the standard of living, or bring a little more justice to some unjust situation.

Of course, the people who run society now don't like to give in to reforms too often. But every now and then they see that the people who want change are getting restless. So the ruling clique goes along with one or two reforms to try to buy off any militancy.

Reforms aren't enough

But when a society needs as much change as our society does, individual reforms can't be really effective in themselves. In fact, trying to really fix up society by individual reforms is about as effective as trying to dam up the Mississippi River with a few Band-aids--as soon as you manage to get one Band-aid to hold, another spot will open up and the old river keeps on rolling In a capitalist society through. where the ruling (capitalist) class is very powerful, if you manage to stop them in one place, they'll figure out how to get you some other place. For example, if the workers in a textile plant ask for decent wages, they find that the prices of their clothes and sheets and towels have gone up so much that their new wages don't make any difference -they still can't afford what they need. The owners and bosses and investors just can't stand to give up a little of their almighty profits, so they use all kinds of tricks to keep those dollars flowing into their pockets.

So reforms by themselves just don't do enough. What this society really needs is a whole new system—a system where the power to plan and control the society in the best interest of the majority of the people is truly in the hands of that majority of the population, that is, the working class. This kind of system is called socialism.

The Ruling Class

But how can the working class get this control? The ruling class isn't likely to just decide to give up all their power. Their vision of what is best for society has been corrupted by their desire for more and more profits, and it isn't very likely that they will correct their "vision" until they absolutely have to.



In order to change from a capitalist society into a socialist society, all the power and all the wealth of the government and the large businesses, banks and corporations must change hands. The working class must take away the power and the wealth from private owners who seek only to increase their own profits. This process of the working class taking over control is called a socialist revolution.

All of the members of the working class, men and women of all nationalities, must get together as an organized force. And because the majority of the population of this country, and of the whole world, is the working class, it will be tremendously powerful when it is a united class.

The already organized parts of the working class, are building a plan for eventually taking control of society. Part of this plan is to build leadership in the form of a revolutionary political party.

Another part of the plan is to do everything possible to weaken the ruling class' control. Reforms of the system will help weaken their hold.

When we look at reforms as part of an over-all plan for socialist revolution they gain a value that they lack when seen only as individual "Band-aids." Reforms are not truly valuable when viewed as ends in themselves, but only when seen as part of the larger process of fighting for socialism.

REFORMS EASE THE PEOPLE'S DAILY OPPRESSION.

BUT IN THE END THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS

ARE COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO THOSE OF THE CAPITALISTS.

STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM!

DEFEAT THE CAPITAIST RULING CLASS!







UFW label

WORKER SOLIDARITY ACROSS THE NATION

For some time now, the United Farmworkers Union has been holding a national boycott of non-union iceberg lettuce. The boycott is another battle in the long struggle of these workers to force growers to accept their union. Because of worker solidarity across the nation during the grape boycott a couple years back, the farmworkers enjoyed an important victory. The grape growers were forced to let the union in.

Once again the farmworkers need the support of fellow workers all over the country. All hopes of

success lie with the solidarity of the working class and its allies around the lettuce boycott.

It is important to buy iceberg lettuce only if it comes from boxes carrying a solid black eagle enclosed in a white circle on a black flag background, carrying the words "Farmworkers AFL-CIO." Avoid the scab-picked lettuce which has no label or else a phony label (shown above) stuck on to fool union supporters.

We must unite to win. Another victory for the farmworkers is a victory for all workers!

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Send to: N.C.S.U.
Box 2233
Durham. N.C. 27702

SOCIALIST WORKER

July '72

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SOCIALIST UNION

INTRODUCING THE SOCIALIST WORKER

During the past few months the North Carolina Socialist Union began distributing leaflets that talked about problems that workers face. We have also shared with other workers our ideas about socialism, the political - economic system that serves the interests of workers.

The response has been encouraging. Many workers are excited about the prospects of uniting the whole class in struggle against the big - money capitalists. At the same time a large number of workers are indifferent. Because they never thought there could be anything better, because they have never known about socialism, they are not optimistic about the future. And finally a small number of workers have been downright hostile. This is because they have believed the lies that the bosses and the ruling class have been putting out for so long. They confuse socialism -- a system where workers control the country and insure democracy for the masses of people -- with fascism where a handful of capitalists run the country and brutally repress the masses of people.

In our leaflets we have made some mistakes: we have not been careful about explaining what socialism is. We have criticized parts of the system of capitalism that we live under, but we have not explained very well how these things will be different under socialism. We have not talked about the history of working class struggles or about the movement that is going on now in this country to achieve socialism, a true workers' democracy.

As a result of these mistakes those <u>advanced</u> workers who are excited about the revolutionary movement of workers have not had the information they need to win over those workers who are sympathetic, but not willing to struggle.

We hope to correct these mistakes, to provide more information by expanding our leaflets into a newspaper. We know the bosses' papers won't tell us the truth, so we need to have our own newspaper. In this way we hope the SOCIALIST WORKER will be a big step on the road to liberation for all working people.

LIVING UNDER SOCIALISM

day are reading and talking about socialism, trying to find out if it really is a way for the profits they create through their hard labor. There is much interest in socialism, but also many questions.

It is of course in the interest of the rulers of the capitalist system (big business and government) to show socialism as a horrible and miserable way of life. Because if all members of the working class found out what life could really be like under socialism, the rulers know that they would have a revolution on their hands and that they would lose their privileged positions and their vast fortunes.

WAGES AND PROPERTY

One common question workers have about socialism is whether they will be able to keep their wages and property or whether the state will take it all away, leaving everyone to live off some kind of dole or welfare. The answer is simple. socialism working people will lose nothing but gain much. only people who will have property taken away are the superrich people who hoard away or spend freely the profits made from workers' labor. That is why the rich, ruling class people of America are so afraid of socialism.

Working men and women will not only be able to keep their wages and property but the wages will be much higher because business profits will be shared by the workers, not taken away by a few capitalist owners.

WORKER CONTROL

The basic idea of socialism is that the people who put their labor into the means of production (the raw materials, machines and tools which make the goods we use) ought to own those means of production. Thus under socialism, workers would control and manage the factories and farms which produce the goods which people use.

PROFITS

Some people ask whether or not business make profits under Socialism. The answer is yes. And the workers decide what to do with these profits—some can be returned to workers in the form of higher wages, some can be turned back into the factory to increase production. But the whole focus for running any business will be to contribute to what is best for all of the people, not, as under capitalism, for the enrichment of a few.

INCENTIVES

Workers ask about incentives under socialism. What could be more incentive to work hard than the knowledge that we have a real share of ownership in the results of our work and will be directly benefitted by greater production? Under capitalism, it hardly matters how hard we work because the result is the same -- low wages.

Further, there will be full employment under socialism. Unemployment is something that is essential to capitalism's ability to exploit the mass of workers for the benefit of a few Capitalists need unemowners. ployment to increase their profits and to keep workers down. By always having a supply of cheap labor around -- unemployed people who are hungry and badly in need of work--the bosses can keep wages low and make workers fight among themselves for the few jobs available. In a socialist society, where workers will be planning the production schedule for their own benefit, jobs will be developped for everyone and everyone will be encouraged to work.

NO HUNGER

America is at a high enough stage of industrial development that if the wealth was justly distributed, as it would be through worker control under socialism, everyone in this society would have a comfortable way of life economically, free of concerns about decent food and clothes.

SOCIAL SERVICES

And of course the people would be able to plan for provision of free education, medical care, child care, legal assistance, and other services for everyone. People who become disabled or too old to work can be provided for as well. And the money for all this will not come from the workers' pockets. first it will come largely from the use of all the trillions of dollars now hoarded by the rich people in the country. Later, once the workers are in control of all of the means of of production, social services will be provided to everyone out of the surplus created by increased productivity.

A BETTER LIFE

The continued growth of technology will further allow workers to produce what is needed while spending less time at the factory. People will have more time to spend with family and friends, getting exercise, reading, and, of course, contributing to community planning and management.

FREEDOM

Thus, far from being an oppressive, government-controlled system where no one has much of anything (as our bosses and government leaders would have us beoieve), socialism meens freedom in ways we can never have under capitalism -- freedom from the struggle to keep ourselves and our families fed, clothed, healthy; freedom from the fears of losing our jobs; freedom to get as much schooling as we want; freedom to do so many of the things that we have never had the time to do; and freedom to participate in the processes which affect our lives, to be part of the economic and social planning of our society.

THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

More and more workers are realizing that their interests and the interests of all people except the ruling class and its allies would be served best by socialism. We have come to understand how good our lives and our society could be if workers controlled and managed the factories instead of a few rich bosses and their government allies. But it is just as obvious that the ruling class is not going to hand control over to workers. They will pretend to give in here and there, in order to try to fool us. They will certainly use television, radio, and newspapers, as they always have, to tell workers how great things are and how we should leave everything in their hands.

But working class men and women no longer accept these lies. Workers realize that they are going to have to take the power and money away from the super-rich corporation owners and government leaders, that the bosses will never just give away their control.

THE WORKING CLASS WILL WIN

The struggle may be long and hard; it will require a great deal of study and courage to figure out how to manage the takeover and to carry it out; but we will study, and plan, and fight, and the working class movement will spread, and, in the end, we will win.

CHINA: socialism does work

Since President Nixon's visit to the People's Republic of China CHINA has been a very popular headline in many magazines and newspapers.

Most of the articles about China only tell half the story — they have tried to deceive American working people by distorting facts about China.

Writers have reported how low the wages are in China. It is true. Chinese factory workers make much less money than American workers. But it is also true (and rarely mentioned) that the average Chinese worker pays only about 60¢ per month for both electricity and water and \$2.20 per month for rent.

The American press has shown how much less industrialized China is compared to the United States. They find nothing wrong in comparing a country that had almost no industry in 1949 (when China became a socialist country) to the United States which has been industrializing for 150 years! These same reporters also fail to mention the great gains China has made industrially in the few short years under socialism.

But perhaps more important than the amount of increased production is the way China is industrializing.

The history of the United States is full of stories of American workers undergoing the worst of conditions such as inadequate safety requirements, bare subsistence wages, forced overtime, impossibly high production quotas etc. These conditions are not only history but exist today as well. As long as a small group of people control the factories, do not have to work in them and make all the profits from them, these conditions can never change greatly.

In China things are different. There is no individual ownership of factories. People in management positions earn salaries similar to those of the workers and perhaps most important, no one sits behind a desk 12 months a year without doing any work. Everyone, including the managers has to do useful work by spending a portion of each year doing factory work.

Since no small group of rich capitalists controls the vactories, working conditions and production quotas are determined by the workers themselves. The large increase in China's indus-

trial output is proof that workers are very capable of running factories efficiently. Since the people who work in the plants have control over working conditions, the factories run smoother and safer. Because there are no elitist bosses who care only about profits, you don't find either conveyor belts going at breakneck speeds or impossible production quotas. All Chinese factories have free child care facilities operating aroung the clock and all women workers are allowed 56 days paid maternity leave.

It's just common sense that working people know their needs better than any bosses!

American workers will continue to be used by capitalists until we do something about it. In China, working people have taken up arms and overthrown the exploiters. American workers must do the same.



The North Carolina Socialist Union is an organization of working people in Durham. We are trying to make a better society by establishing socialism. We want to share our ideas with other workers. If you are interested or have any questions, please write us a letter or send us the form below and we will get in touch with you.

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Address	 	 M00 Part	-	 	 -	-	well from	 	
Phone								 	_

Send to: N.C.S.U.

Box 2233

Durham, N.C. 27702



